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book written largely on the basis of documents from the above-mentioned archive. There is a striking absence of any attempt to test generalizations by the multiplication of numerous or detailed examples of actual occurrences pertinent to the subject, taken from the abundant material which exists in Spain. Extensive reliance is placed on Veitia Linaje and Antuñez y Acevedo, whose sequence of events and illustrations are followed quite faithfully in places. Fernández Duro is also used.

There is a tendency, perhaps unavoidable, on the part of the author, to return frequently to topics already referred to quite fully in earlier chapters, for fuller discussion, or treatment from a slightly different aspect. Digressions are frequent, material is contained in the body of the book which should be in foot-notes, and transitions are frequently so abrupt that unity is sacrificed; but a coherent and well-balanced treatment of an institutional subject, based on original sources, is difficult to write. Some confusion is certain to arise as a result of the use of the two terms, frequently in the same paragraph, "Casa de Contratación" and "India House", referring to the same institution.

This study is of value because it renders into English, with the author's comments, some portions of the treatises mentioned above. A service has been rendered in the reproduction and use of pertinent parts of the *Documentos Inéditos*. However, the subject of trade and navigation under the Hapsburgs is by no means exhausted for the scholar who would utilize the unpublished and hitherto unused documents which exist abundantly in Spain.

CHAS. H. CUNNINGHAM.

The North West Company. By GORDON CHARLES DAVIDSON, Ph.D.
[University of California Publications in History, vol. VII.]
(Berkeley: University of California Press. 1918. Pp. xi, 349.
\$3.00.)

THE author of this book was graduated at the University of California about the year 1912; afterward as travelling fellow spent more than a year (during which the Great War broke out) in research work in England and Canada; then returned to the University and received the degree of Ph. D. and prepared for publication by the University the thesis upon which this degree was based; and then immediately entered into active and distinguished service with the Canadian forces in France. Errors and ambiguities and hasty deductions in the text may therefore be readily understood and excused.

This is a book for the use of the scholar and is not of large human interest to the general reader. It contains many data of value to students of the fur-trade periods in Canadian and American history, and as the first publication in the United States under this title its appearance is welcomed. But it cannot be said to present a continuous and connected narrative of the romantic career of the North West Company, which

was the predecessor of the Hudson's Bay Company in exploration and trade over large portions of the Saskatchewan and Athabasca districts in Canada, and down the Mackenzie River and beyond the Rocky Mountains to the northwest coast of America. In this book the narration of events of one year is too often followed by that of events and occurrences of previous years, while too much space is devoted to the activities of individual traders of this and other partnerships and also of rival companies themselves. The ramifications of the various organizations among the fur traders were difficult to trace and are difficult to state with clearness, and cannot be followed easily in this book. The author has also depended too much on secondary sources; for instance, the references to David Thompson, whose field operations were especially notable and of permanent geographical value, are too frequently to Burpee's *Search for the Western Sea*.

But the reader, while confused as to the narrative, will feel that he has been given a considerable amount of valuable information and a wide list of sources from which to glean; for the sources mentioned are numerous even if not always used. The real value of the book then lies in its collection into a single volume of data that have been available only here and there and to a few, not all that exist but a considerable number; and especially in the insight it gives into the documents to be found in the Public Record Office and British Museum and other places of deposit in London and in the various Canadian archives. In this the author has contributed a service.

The book is not the last word upon the subject; the author especially disclaims this, for the reason that he was unable to examine the material in possession of the Hudson's Bay Company at London. But, *inter alia*, his lack of familiarity with the field of operations of the company on both slopes of the Rocky Mountains leaves room for another study.

The book contains good indexes, both general and geographical, and the statistical and documentary matter presented in seventy-three pages of appendixes is well selected. The physical make-up of the volume is excellent.

T. C. E.

The Passing of the Frontier: a Chronicle of the Old West. By EMERSON HOUGH. [Chronicles of America series, vol. XXVI.]

(New Haven: Yale University Press. 1918. Pp. x, 181.)

The Forty-Niners: a Chronicle of the California Trail and El Dorado. By STEWART EDWARD WHITE. [*Id.*, vol. XXV.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. ix, 273.)

The Day of the Confederacy: a Chronicle of the Embattled South. By NATHANIEL W. STEPHENSON. [*Id.*, vol. XXX.] (*Ibid.* 1919. Pp. xi, 214.)